



MARYLAND - ESTONIA

1993-2013



President: Toomas Hendrik Ilves
 Prime Min.: Andrus Ansip
 MoD: Urmas Reinsalu
 Amb. to US: Marina Kaljurand
 US Amb: Jeffrey D. Levine
 TAG: MG James A. Adkins

NATO member: Yes (2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 150 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 9

Population: 1.3M (2012 est.)
 Area: twice the size of New Hampshire
 Military Expend.: 2.0% GDP (2012 est.)



Photo by U.S. Air Force

Overview

The Maryland–Estonia National Guard Partnership is one of 22 European partnerships that make-up the U.S. European Command State Partnership Program and one of 65 worldwide partnerships that make-up the National Guard State Partnership Program. The partnership serves as a success model to other nations.

Partnership History

- EU and NATO accession in 2004 / Eurozone in Jan 2011
- The Estonian economy has recovered to pre-crisis levels and is reporting approximately 1.9% growth.
- Major concerns: energy security, cyber defense, emigration “brain drain” and initial defense.
- NATO is the cornerstone of Estonia’s National Security. Their defense model focuses on Initial Defense and NATO led Expeditionary Operations.
- Estonia cooperates extensively with Latvia and Lithuania on joint military exercises. However, Estonia views itself primarily as a Scandinavian country, not Baltic and has close cultural and governmental ties with those countries.

Partnership Focus

The current focus of the Maryland–Estonia Partnership is purely military-to-military based and includes ISAF Operational Support, Cyber Defense, Special Operations Forces (SOF) development, EST Air Force development, and the development of a Veteran Care/Warrior Warrior Program. To this end, Estonia hopes to improve training and force protection in support of ISAF and export expertise in cyber defense, explosive ordnance disposal, and E-governance to other NATO/EU nations. Additionally, Estonia seeks opportunities to increase their support of international operations, co-deployments with MD and enhanced regional M2M/Security Cooperation efforts.



Photo by Capt. Elizabeth Culbertson



"With its emphasis on civil and military cooperation, the SPP has allowed the Maryland National Guard to play a key role in promoting democracy and encouraging market economies in our two partner states of Estonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina." - Maj. Gen. Bruce Tuxill, former Adjutant General, Maryland National Guard